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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,207	10/29/2003	Mark J. Gallina	ITL0998US (P16010)	7392
21906 7590 03/25/2008 TROP PRUNER & HU, PC 1616 S. VOSS ROAD, SUITE 750 HOUSTON, TX 77057-2631				
EXAMINER				
WILKINS III, HARRY D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1795				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/696,207

Applicant(s)

GALLINA, MARK J.

Examiner

Harry D. Wilkins, III

Art Unit

1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 January 2008.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/5508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-5, 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brogden et al (US 5,227,041).

Brogden et al anticipate the invention as claimed.

Brogden et al teach (see figures 2-4) more than one spring electrical contact (36) to contact a first side of an object, the first side of the object to have a material electroplated thereon, and a base (40) to directly support the first side of the object without being directly connected to the spring electrical contacts (36), the base (40) distributing the force to seal the second side of the object, opposite the first side.

Regarding claim 2, the base was an o-ring, which would have inherently been made of a soft, acid resistant material, such as rubber.

Regarding claim 3, the base (40) of Brogden et al is spaced inward from the contacts (36).

Regarding claim 4, the contacts (36) were connected to a frame (unnumbered) structure to which the contacts (36) stick out from.

Regarding claim 5, the contacts (36) of Brogden et al appear to be resilient beams that terminate with tips.

Regarding claim 7, the base (40) and the frame (unnumbered) are annular in shape.

Regarding claim 8, the base and frame would have inherently been made of or coated with an acid resistant material to prevent corrosion in the acidic electroplating bath.

Regarding claim 9, the o-ring base (40) continuously contacts the first surface.

Regarding claim 10, each spring electrical contact (36) was able to independently deflect while electrical contact is made with the object.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brogden et al (US 5,227,041) in view of Jorne et al (US 6,132,587).

The teachings of Brogden et al are described above.

Brogden et al teaches including the tips of the spring electrical contacts (36) were placed outward from the base (40).

However, Jorne et al teach (see abstract, figure 2 and col. 6, lines 25-49) the advantage of using an array of electrical contacts across the front face of a wafer to improve plating uniformity.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have incorporated the teachings of Jorne et al into the device of Brogden et al and included additional spring electrical contacts attached to the part (32) which is not the base (40) to contact the first surface of the object at a location inward from the base (seal 40).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 9 January 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued that:

a. In Brogden the seal (40) and the contacts (36) contact the same side of the wafer and that claim 1 has been amended to specify that the spring contacts contact a first side of the wafer and that the base seals a second side of the wafer opposite the first.

In response, it is noted that the base in claim 1 directly contacts the first side of the wafer, to seal the second side of the wafer. Brogden exactly matches this structure.

b. The combination of Brogden and Jorne is not proper since it would require breaking the seal of Brogden.

In response, the teachings of Jorne would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to add additional electrical contacts distributed across the face of the wafer, but to keep the seal around the periphery of the wafer to prevent back side contact of electroplating solution on the wafer.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry D. Wilkins, III whose telephone number is 571-272-1251. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Susy Tsang-Foster can be reached on 571-272-1293. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Harry D Wilkins, III/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795

hdw